# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2474
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2001
WOMEN HEALTH CARE
DADICHILUKA VEERA GOURI SANKARA RAO

**Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `Female health remains neglected` appearing in the `Times of India` dated September 21, 2001;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

## Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR)

(a) to (d) : Yes Sir. During the Ninth Plan period, the Reproductive and Child Health Programme being implemented in all States of the country aims at improving the health and nutrition of women and bringing down the maternal mortality and morbidity. Maternal Health is an integral part of the Programme. Under this programme various intervention focused on reducing maternal deaths are being implemented. These are essential obstetric care; Emergency Obstetric Care; prevention and treatment of Reproductive and sexually transmitted infections, provision for referral transport for pregnant women with complication of pregnancy through Panchayats; provision of drugs and equipment at First Referral Units; provision of contractual staff like Additional Health Workers, staff nurses, doctors and anesthetists. Funds are also being provided for schemes like 24 hours delivery services at selected primary health centres and community health centres; training of dais in 142 districts with safe delivery rate of less than 30 per cent and holding of Reproductive and Child Health Camps in 102 districts with adverse health indicators.A nation-wide Family Health awareness campaign on HIV/AIDS/RTI/STI is also being carried out by the National AIDS Control Programme in collaboration with th Department of Family Welfare of Govt. of India and the State GovernmentsA National Cancer Control Programme for early detection and treatment of cervical and breast cancers among women is also under implementation.

Evidence is also increasingly becoming available that hormonal and metabolic disorders and micronutrient deficiencies like Vitamin D, contribute significantly to morbidity among women. The working Group on `Health care for women and children` constituted by the Planning Commission for the Tenth Five Year Plan has recommended the adoption of a holistic life cycle approach towards women health with attention to even interventions other than those relating to reproductive health menopause, infertility, cervical and breast cancers etc. The National Population Policy - 2000 also highlights the need for sensitizing training and equipping rural and urban health centres and hospitals for providing geriatric health care.